

## Shot cat reunited with owner today

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9/4/2009

Dillon Eads was reunited with Brownie Friday afternoon, nearly two weeks after the tabby cat had surgery to remove an arrow from its head.

"I can't believe the people that this has touched," Eads said, his eyes filling with tears. "And this had touched us." He paused to wipe his eyes with a folded, white handkerchief, explaining to a visitor, "I'm soft-hearted."

The World War II veteran lives on nearly 40 acres off Stipp Road in the house he was born in, several of his siblings nearby. At 83, he still mows his own yard each week. He has other pets, including two Spitz-poodle mixes, little furballs that lounge nearby when he sits on his front porch and cheerfully greet guests coming up the gravel drive.

When he saw Brownie for the first time after finding the cat with an arrow sticking through its head, Eads was visibly moved.

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"Hi Brownie, hi baby," he crooned, peering into the cloth pet carrier to see the cat, two wounds still visible on its head. "You remember dad, huh? You're back home."

Brownie, obviously still a bit stressed after his ordeal, later scratched Eads, then leaped from his arms and hid in the garage for a few minutes before being coaxed out by county animal control officer Rebecca Brown. She's caring for Brownie while his wounds heal, after which he'll come back home to stay.

Eads recalled the day a neighbor knocked on his door, telling him he'd seen the cat with an arrow through its head. "I came out here and didn't believe what I saw," he said.

But Brownie vanished while he spoke with the neighbor, leading Eads to check all his favorite spots in the barn, the cellar and the garage. When he didn't find him, he worried his beloved pet had gone into the woods to die.

But the next day — after breakfast at the southside Burger King, where he's a regular — Eads was home, sitting on the porch and reading the newspaper when he spotted Brownie trotting up the hill in his front yard.

"The arrow was still in his head," he said. "I couldn't believe it."

He got Brownie food and water, called his sister and then the animal shelter, asking what he should do. Animal control officer Brown was there in "just a matter of minutes, it seemed like," he said.

Shortly thereafter, the cat had surgery at Bloomington's Town and Country Vet Hospital. Veterinarian Casey Shake said the arrow entered just above Brownie's right eye and went through his skin, tissue and some muscles, skimming the skull and exiting in front of his left ear.

Once Brownie's story hit the media, it quickly went international. Monroe County Humane Association CEO Sarah Hayes said she's even received a call from People magazine about the cat's survival tale.

And Brownie, Shake and Hayes are set to appear via satellite in an 8 a.m. segment during Saturday morning's "The Today Show" broadcast, which will air locally on Channel 13.

Can you help?

Anyone with information about Brownie's wounds is asked to call Monroe County animal control officer Rebecca Brown at 349-2585. The Monroe County Humane Association is offering a \$1,450 reward to anyone with information that leads to the conviction of the person or persons responsible.

Dillon Eads is reunited today with his cat, Brownie, that is healing after being shot in the head with an arrow. Jeremy Hogan | Herald-Times

